

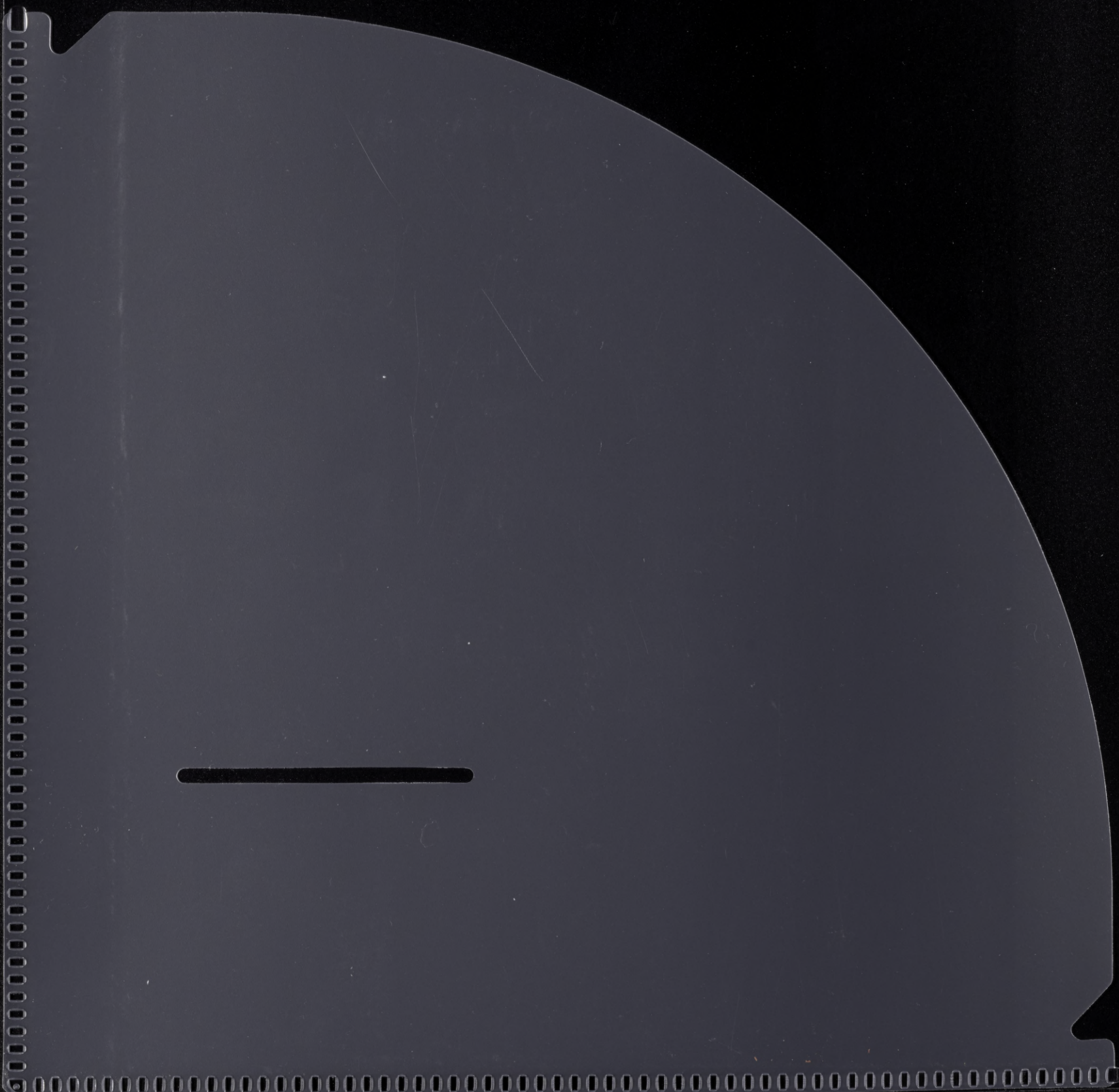
**SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER - LPA 1980 - 1985**

**Creator - Donna Hughes**

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# Ronnie will go to

San Jose Mercury News ■ Wednesday, May 1, 1985 • Extra 2 11

## great lengths for a laugh



Ron Burda — Extra

Ray Barnes and his son, Ronnie, whom he calls 'a real pleasure to live with'



# Tiny Little League ballplayer, 14, doesn't even shrink from short jokes

By Tom Widlowski  
Mercury News Staff Writer

E.F. Hutton couldn't hold a candle to Ronnie Barnes.

When Ronnie walks into a room, heads turn, conversations lull and levity becomes official. "He's the life of the party," said Ray Barnes, his father.

"You got to live it up," Ronnie said. "I make short jokes, too. I want to make everybody else enjoy it."

Ronnie has achondroplasia, which means he's a dwarf. The 14-year-old freshman at Irvington High School in Fremont is 3 feet 9 inches tall and weighs 75 pounds. And he's a ton of fun.

*Q. So, Ronnie, do you live in a miniature house, or what?*

*A. Well, you ever hear of Barbie?*

Ronnie has a neat outlook on life. Not only does he see things from the angle of a healthy 5-year-old, he sees things from the perspective of a well-adjusted, mature teen-ager.

Forget that he gets around the neighborhood on a big wheel tricycle or unwinds in a pint-sized rocking chair designed for preschoolers.

"The way he looks at it is tall people have to compensate for some things, fat people have to compensate for some things and dwarfs have to compensate for some things," his dad said.

"I think about myself as tall as everybody else," Ronnie said.

Except not everybody older than 7 climbs the kitchen counter to get a glass from the cabinet. Not everybody can cut off a pair of jeans at the knees and still have a pair of long pants to put on. Not everybody can keep track of his bicycle the way Ronnie does.

"He would come in and park his bike under his desk," said Rick Sira, Ronnie's science teacher last semester at Irvington.

"I'm real impressed with him as a person," Sira said. "To be honest with you, when I walked in the very first day and saw a guy out of the ordinary, I wondered if I could make the classroom comfortable for him. But it was more like he made the classroom comfortable for him. He does things like that."

"He's the most popular guy around," said Don Empson, a friend of Ronnie's.



Ronnie awaits turn at bat, below; heads for field with Ray Morgan, 15, top.





Q. Do you have people come up to you and say, 'Oh, how cute?'

A. (Eyebrows raised) Yeah, girls.

"We don't see him the way you do or the way a stranger does," said Ray Barnes, 49. "Everybody's got a problem. We don't let him cop out because of his size. There's no limitations as far as we're concerned."

Ronnie played CYO basketball as an eighth-grader. "Magic Johnson — you know how he never shoots, how he always wants to get the best shot?" Ronnie said. "That's what I do."

He's heavy into skateboarding and playing neighborhood football, and he has wrestled, boxed and dabbled in karate.

"Ronnie doesn't know when to stop," his dad said. "He's wound up from morning to night."

Ronnie also plays for the Cubs in the senior division of Fremont American Little League. When he takes his spot at second base — no, he doesn't play SHORTstop — he brings the party with him onto the field.

"He gets us going," said Cubs coach Greg Degenstein, a senior at Irvington. "Having fun is more important than winning. He typifies that."

"We've got the biggest team in the league and the smallest player," Degenstein said. "He doesn't play small."

Nor does he cover the ground like Ryne Sandberg, the second baseman for the real Cubs in Chicago, Ronnie's favorite team. "If he gets to the ball, he'll pick it up," manager Ron Anthony said. Sometimes, Ronnie's legs don't get him around as fast he'd like.

"He's got a lot of courage," said teammate Ray Morgan, 15.

Q. Do people ever treat you strangely because you're a dwarf?

A. Yeah. Like it's going to spread.

Even before Ronnie Barnes entered the lives of Ray and Sylvia Barnes as their only child, he was no ordinary kid.

"All the time I was pregnant, I had a feeling that I was going to have a special child," said Sylvia Barnes, 39.

Indeed, she had a difficult delivery, and when Ronnie entered the world doctors told Ray his son had achondroplasia. "I didn't think anything about it," Ray said.

Tall or short, Ronnie was the little boy God sent him to raise.

Sylvia wasn't informed of Ron-

nie's condition when he was first brought to her for breast-feeding. "I checked him over and counted his fingers and toes, but something about him seemed different," she recalled.

Finally, Ray explained that Ronnie was a dwarf. "I didn't freak out," she said. "I started asking a lot of questions. Was it something I did?"

She learned that Ronnie's achondroplasia is the result of a genetic mutation. Doctors told her his maximum height would be 5 feet.

There is no history of dwarfism in either Ray's or Sylvia's family. But from now on, Sylvia said, the Barnes family tree is likely to include dwarfs.

"Do I feel sorry for him? No way," Sylvia Barnes said. "He's never encountered any of the problems I thought he would."

Then again, there was the time the head of Mission San Jose Little League told Sylvia that as long as there were normal players available, Ronnie never would get into the game.

Q. Does it bug you when people treat you like you're weird?

A. How am I supposed to help it — hang from a tree for 10 days?

Sylvia Barnes knows now that she can't expect everybody to be as open-minded and accepting of Ronnie as friends and family are.

Ronnie belongs to Little People of America, a group that provides social outlets and counseling for dwarfs. It has helped his family better understand dwarfism.

Because of his condition, Ronnie has arms and legs that are proportionately small for his torso. His lower jaw protrudes a bit, giving him an underbite that may need surgical correction some day.

Q. Do people ever stare?

A. Yeah. I tell them, 'Take a picture. It lasts longer.'

He experiences some hearing problems, but two operations to implant tubes to improve the condition have been unsuccessful. Other than that, Ronnie's in perfect health.

SFBAC POTLUCK- MTG-  
COHA'S - MAY 4-  
Rosie Cassano / Mary H.  
(1st time)



Linda + Bob Milburn  
Renee's Kitchen







Welches Swim Party  
May-11/



Danielle Harmon - friend  
+ family  
the group



Debbie - Bruce Evans +  
Jon - →  
← Cody + Vaughn Mestas





# Little People of America Aim toward Local Chapter

By MIKE McANDREW

The 6-foot-long hoagie was twice as tall as most of the people feasting on it.

Members of the Little People of America, a nationwide organization of dwarfs, converged Friday at the Sheraton Inn in Liverpool, to discuss plans for starting a Central New York chapter. The group, founded 27 years ago, is a support group for 3,000 members who are all less than 4 feet 10 inches tall.

Its goals are to help dwarfs build self-esteem in a society that promotes the theories that the more macho the man the better he is, and that the woman with the Bo Derek figure is the cream of the crop.

One of every 20,000 children in the United States is born with a form of dwarfism. For them, getting a date, buying clothing, getting on a bus, and shopping for groceries can be a difficult experience.

Dawn Rosenow, 21, of Liverpool was one of the 108 dwarfs registered to attend the week-end-long conference at the Sheraton.

Rosenow, a keypuncher at Mutual of New York, was born into a tall family. Her father is 6-foot-6, and her mother and her eight brothers and sisters are all over 6 feet tall. She was the baby of the family.

Rosenow said the LPA helped her deal with the often cruel teasing targeted at people who are different. Short jokes don't even bother her anymore. In fact, she makes them herself sometimes to break the ice when average-size guys feel uncomfortable around her, Rosenow said.

"When you're at a bar, it can be difficult," she said. "Guys are afraid to approach you. They feel they'll say the wrong thing and you'll start crying or something."

The group has also helped Rosenow's parents.

"The doctor was quite sure right from the beginning that she was a dwarf," said her father, Paul. "It was a surprise. There was no background of this in either family."

He said the LPA helped ease much of his anxiety by teaching him about the physical abilities and limitations of dwarfs.

Shirley Tillinghast, 29, of Auburn, the go-getter who helped organize the conference at the Sheraton, has been traveling to LPA conferences in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey since 1965.

She and her husband, David, who is also a dwarf, had an average-size baby three months ago.

Leann is "growing like a weed," Tillinghast said with a laugh. But she said she would not have been sad if her daughter had been a dwarf. "We were going to be happy with her as long as she was healthy. I didn't care if she was little or tall."

Tillinghast said the estimated 75 dwarfs who live within 100 miles of Syracuse could greatly benefit if the LPA chapter is formed here.

"A lot of little people are in their own little shell," she said. "They don't want to accept the facts."

Rochester resident Robert Van Etten, president of the national LPA organization, agreed.

"We're a self-help group," he said. "What better way to find out how to drive a car or fix your house than by learning from the examples of other dwarfs?"

"Forty years ago where did the dwarf work? In the side show," Van Etten said. "Now the career potentials are wide open. They're not beating down our doors to hire us. There is still some discrimination, but it's lessening."

The director of the LPA region that encom-



Stephen D. Connerelli/THE POST-STANDARD

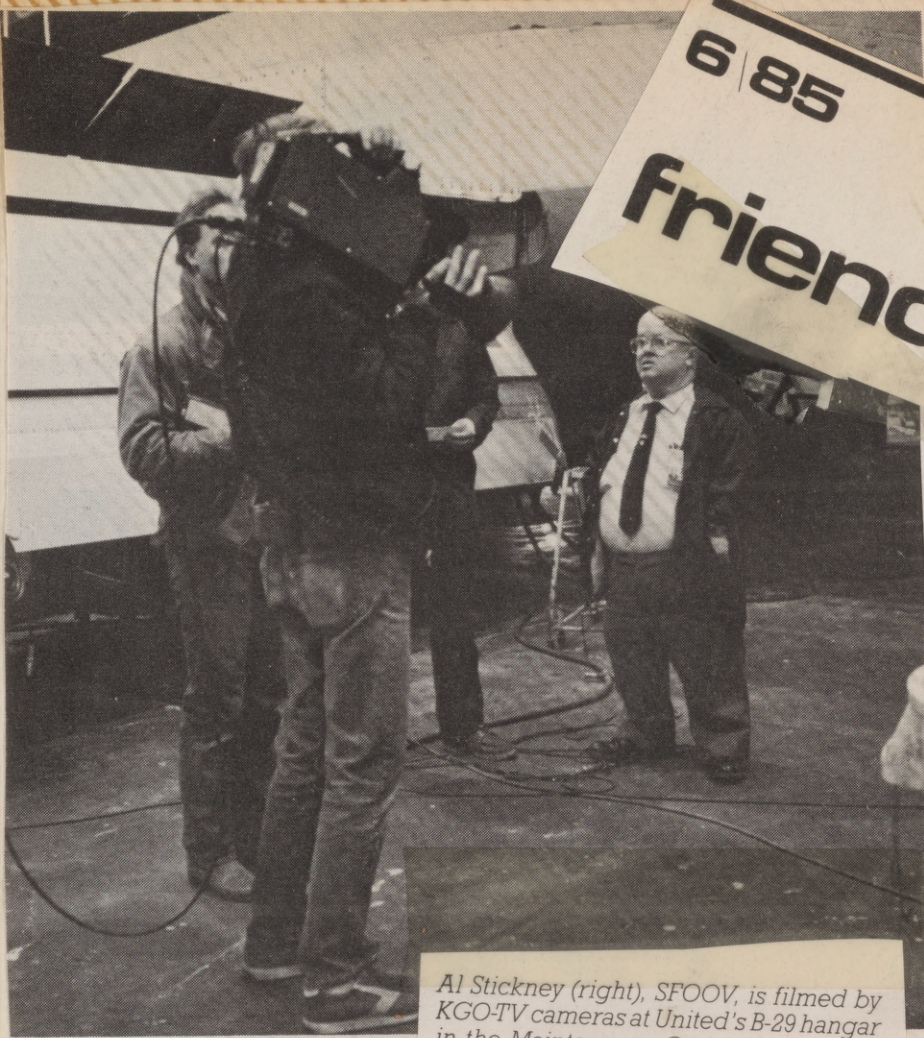
**Shirley Tillinghast holds her 3-month-old daughter, Leann.**

passes New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Harry McDonald, 39, is a mechanical engineer.

McDonald said dwarfs can do almost any job — except perhaps "play in the National Basketball Association or do strenuous manual labor" — if they push hard enough.

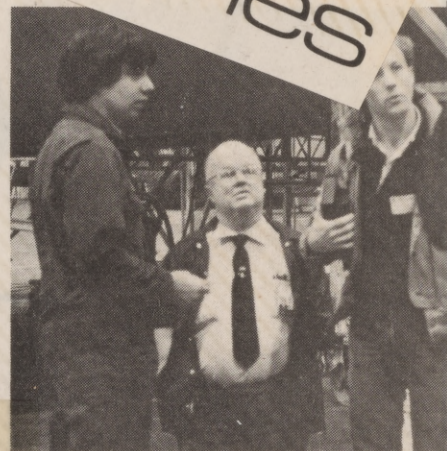
"It's what's above the shoulders that counts," McDonald said.





*Al Stickney (right), SFOOV, is filmed by KGO-TV cameras at United's B-29 hangar in the Maintenance Operations Center. Stickney and his wife Harriet, both active members of Little People of America, were featured in a TV segment about how dwarfs cope in a big-sized world.*

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*UAL in house mag-*  
**friendly times**



*It's a big world—especially for dwarf Al Stickney, SFOOV. How he's meeting the challenge makes him someone you should know.*

## **Someone you should know: dwarfs Harriet and Al Stickney**

To be a success today, you've got to stand up, be counted, rise above the crowd and get noticed. But when you're a dwarf, and nature's own designer genes have shrunk, getting noticed takes on a whole



new meaning. Ask Al and Harriett Stickney. They're national mailing coordinators for Little People of America (LPA). And they're someone you should know.

America salutes its heroes with reference to height. We say, "a man or woman of stature," or "he's a giant of a man." And "filling the big man's shoes" also can be quite a "tall order."

But Al and Harriett Stickney are heroes, too. And telling their story is no small feat, for their influence and inspiration have touched the hearts of families throughout the U.S. At 4 foot 6, Al, SPOOV, towers over Harriett, a petite 4 foot 2. They met through the LPA more than 20 years ago. She's a former national vice president; he's a former district director. Together, as mailing coordinators for the 4,000-member organization, they handle more than 500 pieces of correspondence annually from physicians and families of dwarfs.

Founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty, the LPA is dedicated to providing fellowship, support and helpful information to all people of small stature. Applicants need be only 4 foot 10 or under to join.

"We're among the tall ones," Al quips, "so we stand in the back row for group pictures."

That wry sense of humor, however, belies the serious nature of the Stickneys' work.

"Dwarfs haven't had a very good P.R. man through the ages," Harriett

notes. "Mythology abused us. The royal courts amused themselves at our expense. And circus and entertainment industries have promulgated the myth that most dwarfs work in show business. Nothing could be further from the truth."

She's a retired school teacher. He, a 30-year United veteran, is a federally licensed airplane mechanic and maintenance check planner.

While his short stature never was an obstacle to employment, he admits the irony of a man his size working on giant jets.

"Some years ago, I was standing on a step ladder working on a plane," he explains. "Beneath me, a 6-foot-2 friend was working on the hangar floor. We both had a good laugh and joked about switching jobs. But the point is, we were performing functions of our own expertise. Size had nothing to do with it."

"I didn't choose this profession to be the world's smallest maintenance check planner," he continues. "And Harriett didn't want a shot at the tiniest teacher award. Like anyone else, we play to our strengths, not our weaknesses."

That message comes across loud and clear when the Stickneys counsel families of dwarf children. It's a role they clearly cherish.

"Every family member is affected," Harriett says. "If the dwarf is the oldest child, the terms 'big brother' and 'big sister' lose all meaning. Parents need help working through their guilt, because friends don't exactly jump for joy when they learn about a dwarf baby. Parents experience real trauma and we need to educate them so that they can regroup and go on living."

Social and cultural prejudices are bad enough, but the real villain of this genetic mutation is dysplasia, the abnormal alignment of bones and muscles. There are two major categories of dwarfism—disproportionate, like the Stickneys, and proportionate. Within these two distinctions, however, lie more than 100 sub-categories, spanning all levels of physical development.

A proper diagnosis, therefore, is of the utmost importance. Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore is the grandfather of short stature programs, but the Stickneys also refer families to several clinics throughout the country.

"Having a dwarf child isn't necessarily the same as having a handicapped child," Harriett explains. "A precise diagnosis is mandatory to help children reach their full potential."

To say that dwarfs get the short end of the stick in this average-size world is no exaggeration. The Stickneys live in a three-bedroom ranch in San Bruno. Surprisingly, the only extensive modifications are in the kitchen, where sink, countertops and range are only three feet high.

But the real fun begins just outside their front door. Harriett can't reach the mailbox. And they both have trouble negotiating the steep steps of public buses. Grocery shopping is a pain. Products on the first three shelves are within reach, but above that, they need a telescopic hooked pointer to knock items off the shelf before they catch them.

"It's a constant juggling act," she notes. "But we haven't dropped anything yet."

Dwarfs have benefited from some handicap accommodations, such as wheelchair ramps and lower pay telephones. "But we still need to adapt," Al says. "We do what we have to do."

The Stickneys came to terms with their dwarfism long ago, though each had strikingly different childhoods. Harriett grew up on a

Wisconsin dairy farm and enjoyed the small-town closeness of rural America. Al, an Army brat, moved around the country with his family. Both, however, had supportive parents and siblings.

Al tells of going to the circus as a young child. The show itself didn't faze him because he was more concerned with a dwarf he'd seen selling pencils near the big top.

"I couldn't understand why anyone would choose an occupation like that," he says. "I just couldn't relate."

In that respect, Stickney says dwarfs are different from other

**"While his short stature never was an obstacle to employment, he admits the irony of a man his size working on giant jets."**



minorities. "If you're black or Hispanic, you can at least look to the members of your family and identify with their blackness or ethnic traditions. A dwarf can't always do that."

That's where LPA enters the picture. The organization has 12 districts through the U.S., including Alaska. Support groups meet locally, giving members the opportunity to meet on a regular basis. But the annual LPA convention is definitely the main event of the year.

"Today it's like any other convention," Harriet says. "You walk into a hotel lobby and see old friends catching up on lost time."

"We're proud the young members can see us driving up to the hotel," Al adds. "So what if we need leg extenders? What the kids see is our independence. They learn firsthand that they can be self-supportive members of society."

Ask the Stickneys what they wish for future generations of dwarfs and they'll tell you the future is now.

"We're already seeing the fruits of our labors," Al says. "We have members in their teens and early '20s who have never known life without the love and support of the LPA. Their self-images and self-confidence are just tremendous. It's our dream come true."

For more information on the LPA, write to the Stickneys, Little People of America, Inc., P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, Calif. 94066.

End of  
United  
Friends  
Time's  
Article

## Billy Barty

### Elfin Roles and a Giant Career

It's not every day someone decides to make a movie with an 800-year-old, tree-climbing pixie in an enchanted forest. But whenever they do, Billy Barty is probably the first guy they'll call. Now 60, with a show business career launched in vaudeville before he was 10, Barty, at 3' 9", is Hollywood's leading presence among "little people." His role as the diminutive octo-centenarian forest dweller named Screwball occurs in *Legend*, a myths-and-magic fantasia headlined by Tom Cruise and Mia Sara.

"It's the same old story," Barty jests. "Boy meets girl, girl meets witch, boy saves girl from witch, boy gets girl." Yet, he says in practically the same breath, *Legend* is a bit unlike anything else in his more-than-150-film experience. "The costumes and makeup were out of this world," Barty says. "I had it easy. My makeup only took three and a half hours to put on. Poor Tim Curry [who plays

the villainous Lord of Darkness] took more than six hours. And you could only wear the makeup once. After the day was done, it had to be thrown away. It cost \$2,500 each time I was made up. And I had one of the less difficult costumes."

Barty, one of 25 "little people" cast in the film, found his role quite strenuous. "In one scene," he reports, "a stunt double was supposed to swing back and forth from the limb of a tree. He couldn't figure out how to do it, so I just ended up doing it myself. When I was finished, I went up to him and joked, 'I'm tired of making you look good.'"

Away from acting, Barty is the driving force behind an organization he founded some 28 years ago, "The Little People of America," along with "The Billy Barty Foundation," which he started in 1975. Both help the medical world study dwarfism, and give their members support in overcoming medical and social problems.

"We've had to fight stereotyping for years," says Barty. "It used to be that you didn't work in Hollywood until a circus movie came around. Or come Christmas time you'd get a job in a commercial playing an elf."

Though elfin work is still the norm, Barty has compiled credits including *Alice in Wonderland* in 1933, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1935, *Day of the Locust* in 1975 and, as the traveling salesman Goldie Hawn thinks is out to murder her, in 1978's *Foul Play*. Of his latest role, Barty remarks, "It's a crazy story. There are a lot of spooky things. I am," he notes with the pride of a seasoned pro, "the comedy relief." ■

by Bill Braunstein



SCOTT WINDUS/GAMMA-LIAISON



## Special needs a

# full-size challenge for little people

By KIM BOLAN

Linda Burgan of Abbotsford was horrified when a hotel clerk told her she was booked into a room on the sixth floor of a downtown Vancouver hotel for the weekend.

It's not that six is an unlucky number for her, but at 119 cm (three feet, 11 inches), it's often impossible for her to reach the right elevator button.

"The elevator door had closed before I discovered I couldn't reach the button. I pushed Lobby, but it just kept going up to the top," said Burgan, one of 50 weekend delegates to the annual convention of the Little People of B.C. at the Sandman Inn on Howe.

"At the top floor, an elderly lady got in,"

Burgan said. "She asked me if I was sitting down and I said: 'No, I'm a little person.' She was stunned."

The elevator incident and the old lady's reaction to it is a daily experience for little people, Burgan said, and one of the many things the group deals with when it meets.

"A lot of people don't realize what some of the special needs of little people are," Burgan said.

Getting things in and out of a shopping cart, using a pay phone and even reaching door handles on larger doors can all be especially difficult for short people, said Burgan, a 36-year-old employee at a Canada Employment Centre.

"The group helps me with self-confidence and helps give me a feeling of independence. You know, like, hey, I'm okay the way I am.

"Sometimes at work I get frustrated having to climb on stools all the time or feeling like everything I need is always on the top shelves."

B.C. Little People president Murial Reid, 30, also 119 cm., said though she too gets frustrated at times, she refuses to let herself be sold short.

"Our motto is heighten your awareness. That's for our members and for the general public," said Reid, a B.C. Tel operator. "I don't even try to do the tasks that I may be limited at because of my stature. Why try out

for the basketball team when you may be great at music appreciation?"

She said many people are uncomfortable with their shortness when they join the group.

"I grew up in a small town and I thought all little people looked alike. I never saw another little person until I was 17 and saw one on TV. I was embarrassed. I don't look like that, I thought."

She joined the B.C. branch of Little People when it was founded in 1982. It's still tough for the group to lobby, she said, because it's so new.

"I went to my bank and had them put in a lower banking machine because many of the

handicapped people couldn't even reach it," she said.

The weekend convention featured two presentations by local doctors who specialize in treating genetic disorders that cause shortness.

And, for Reid and Burgan, it was a time to share experiences with some friends they hadn't seen since last year.

"I feel kind of lonely now," Burgan said late Sunday. "It's kind of like being in two different worlds. It's nice to spend the weekend talking to people and looking them in the eye or putting your arms around them for a hug. Now I have to make the transition from the little people's world to the real world."



BRANDY — HEATHER  
ADONA



H.S. Graduation — 1985  
Dawn Abbey



## Coming up short

by Jane Clark

Admit it: When was the last time someone predicted you would meet a short, dark and handsome stranger? Or told you to sit short in your saddle? Or offered to fix you a short, refreshing glass of lemonade? Not in a very long while, you say? That's because, in America anyway, short is not sweet. Short is unglamorous. It's substandard. Not only that, it's inconvenient. Take the following examples:

Short people can't bend their knees when they wear high boots.

Short pregnant people look like bell jars.

Tall people slide into a hot bath and prop their feet comfortably under the faucet; short people slide into the tub and keep sliding.

Short people spend their youth getting fixed up with other short people. The first chance they get, they marry tall people and spend the rest of their lives trying to find things their spouse put on top of the refrigerator, which is the last place short people look.

Short people have to undergo the humiliation of having tall people try to lift them at parades.

Short people look silly in designer jeans. Just ask Brooke Shields how tall *she* is.

Tall women have names like Alexandra; short women have names like Mitzi.

Short people wouldn't mind placing the tinsel neatly on the Christmas tree, but every year they have to pretend they would rather throw it.

Tall people stride; short people scamper.



Tall people may leave their fingerprints on high cupboards, but short people leave their footprints on kitchen counters.

Who cares about scaling the Sears Tower? Every day at least one short person tries to scale a bookcase to get to the top shelf.

Tall people are considered brave; short people are considered spunky.

Short people are the ones who have to climb in the bathroom window when tall people get locked out of the house.

Short people have an innate sense of the precariousness of life. That's because they're always standing on swivel chairs and the top step of stepladders. (Veteran newspaper reporters love to reminisce about days in the old-time newsroom. One veteran newswoman who is short has spent thirty years trying to forget the time she jumped from a jaunty perch on a desk—a pose often affected by short people—and got her foot stuck in a spittoon.)

Tall emperors have vision; short emperors have a Napoleonic complex.

Short people don't get invited to work on political campaigns because they nail posters at eye level to an elf.

Short people have to sit on the edge of deep couches so their legs won't stick straight out.

Tall people look elegant in mink coats—short people look like minks in mink coats.

Short people never get to dance cheek-to-cheek.

Of course, being short isn't all bad. For instance, you never have to kneel in family photos. Nobody ever yells "Down in front!" at you. For the first ten years of your life you think you have the inalienable right to lead processions, present flowers to visiting dignitaries and play Tinkerbell in the school play. But one day you wake up and realize for the last month you've been staring at your best friend's shoulder blades. And not long after that it hits you: When God made Ralph Sampson (7'4"), John Kenneth Galbraith (6'8") and Margaux Hemingway (6'), He gave you the short end of the stick.

Jane Clark (5'2") recently finished writing a book for children, most of whom are still shorter than she is.

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News-  
Letter

Changing Times





**MRS. JORGE NESTOR FERNANDEZ**

Miss Ellen Brennan Highland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Blaine Highland Jr., Bridgeport, and Jorge Nestor Fernandez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Serafin Fernandez, Buenos Aires, Argentina, were united in marriage during a ceremony performed at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at the Christ Episcopal Church, Clarksburg. The Rev. Thomas Seitz officiated, assisted by Father Sean O'Sulli-

van, I.C. and the Rev. Mr. Samuel C. Giese.

The bride is the granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. James T. Brennan of Clarksburg and the late Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Blaine Highland of Clarksburg and New Martinsville. The bridegroom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Torres of Buenos Aires, Argentina and the late Mr.

(Continued on Page 2-B)

## **Fernandez-Highland**

(Continued from Page 1-B)

and Mrs. Antonio Fernandez of Lugo, Galicia, Spain.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted to the altar by her father, the bride appeared in a gown of silk taffeta and silk corded Alencon lace. The pearl and crystal re-embroidered bodice was designed with a cameo neckline, an English net yoke highlighted with handclipped ornaments of the pearl and crystal embroidered lace and long tapered sleeves ending in points at the wrists. The softly gathered skirt fell from a scalloped back waistline into a chapel-length train. The entire front of the gown was highlighted with the pearled Alencon lace and the hem was adorned with scallops of the matching lace. Her two-tiered veil of imported illusion was attached to a tiara of Alencon lace, embossed with seed pearls and scrolls of crystals. The bride carried an arm bouquet of white roses.

Miss Robin Zeltner, of Washington, D.C., served as maid of honor. She was attired in a gown of pastel yellow silk chiffon, designed with a round neckline and softly gathered, split trumpet sleeves. She wore baby's breath in her hair.

Bridesmaids were Miss Anne Rice, of Washington, D.C. and Miss Anne Kersting, of Clarksburg. They wore identical gowns. The bridesmaids carried arm bouquets of yellow roses and wore hair arrangements.

Alberto Oscar Fernandez served as best man. Charles W. Kersting, of Clarksburg, Daniel DeMarino, of Bridgeport and Oscar Quiroga, of Buenos Aires, Argentina, were ushers.

The mother of the bride wore a gown of turquoise silk jersey, de-

signed in a Grecian style and offset with a cummerbund of crystal and iridescent sequins. The mother of the bridegroom was attired in a decollete gown of deep rose silk Georgette, offset with a long stole of matching fabric.

The reception was held at the Clarksburg Country Club. Miss Terry Ridenour, of Bridgeport, registered the guests. Miss Kim Robinson, of Wilmington, Del., served the wedding cake.

The new Mrs. Fernandez is a graduate of Bridgeport High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga. She obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Miami, Miami, Fla. She is currently employed in the Marketing Research Department of the Miami Herald, Miami, Fla.

Mr. Fernandez has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from E.S.C. Carlos Pellegrini, a certification in Public Accountancy and a Licentiate in Business Administration from the National University of Buenos Aires. He has recently held the position of chief accountant for the Transmaritima S.A., Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For a wedding trip to the Virginia and West Virginia mountains, the bride wore a light blue suit with a corsage of white roses.

Following the honeymoon, the couple will reside in Miami, Fla., after June 16.



# The tall problems of little people

## His crusade: Make world accessible

By Erik Gunn

Democrat and Chronicle

At first glance, the appliances and counter in Robert Van Etten's kitchen appear to be scaled down.

It takes a second look to realize that they weren't custom-built to accommodate Van Etten's 3-foot, 4-inch height. Instead, Van Etten has raised the floor by building several carpeted platforms that put his stove, sink and counter space within his reach.

Making the world accessible is Van Etten's profession. It's also his crusade.

"I'm a strong advocate for access," he said. Just as doorways in public buildings should be wide enough to accommodate people in wheelchairs, for example, I should be able to go and make a telephone call and expect one of those telephones to be low enough for me to use."

Van Etten is a rehabilitation engineer who attempts to match the needs of the disabled with equipment they can use to make their lives easier and more productive. He recently moved to Rochester to establish a private practice, but he has no clients here yet.

Van Etten is also serving his second term as president of the Little People of America Inc., a national organization of dwarfs — people who, because of a medical problem usually discovered at birth, are much shorter than average.

The 27-year-old organization serves as a support group and information source for about 2,800 members diagnosed with dwarfism, their families and the health professionals who work with them. It has also given them a voice to speak out — as more and more have — about how society views them.

"We're looked at as people who are different, and it's obvious we are different," Van Etten said. "We're short-statured, we walk differently, we may talk differently. But outside of that we have the same desires, the same hopes and dreams, the same goals, as anyone else."



Dennis R. Floss Democrat and Chronicle

Dawn Pautz, 15, left, and 11-year-old sister, Darcy. Dawn has taken growth hormones for 2 years.

Van Etten, 35, came here earlier this year from Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a rehabilitation engineer on the staff at Cleveland Metro General Hospital and had a caseload of about 220 clients. His wife, Angela, also a dwarf, is a lawyer and works for the Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Co.

TURN TO PAGE 2B

## Hormones offer a chance to grow

By Erik Gunn

Democrat and Chronicle

Three times a week Dawn Pautz injects herself with a white powder mixed with five cubic centimeters of distilled water.

The 15-year-old Irondequoit ninth-grader began the ritual more than two years ago and has grown 7 inches taller because of it.

Aaron Priest's mother gives him the same three shots each week that Dawn Pautz takes. The 7-year-old Webster boy is 5 inches shorter than most of his second-grade classmates at Plank Road South School. But after two years of not growing more than a half-inch a year, his father Frank says, Aaron is putting on the inches and catching up in height with his friends.

Aaron and Dawn can thank hormones from human pituitary glands for their renewed growth. For reasons no one knows, their own pituitary glands apparently have shut off, preventing them from growing on their own.

But some scientists fear that at least some of the 4,000 or more children nationwide taking growth hormones may be risking permanent brain damage and death from a slow virus whose effects won't show up for five, 10 or even 20 years.

A University of Rochester research scientist, however, said he doesn't believe there are grounds for concern over the hormones being used now.

The two European companies that make and distribute the drug have pulled their products out of circulation in this country — one on its own, the other at the request of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The reason was the deaths in the past year of three people who were part of a growth hormone program sponsored by the federal government. One 21-year-old man's death was confirmed to be

TURN TO PAGE 2B



## Trying to cut world to size

FROM PAGE 1B

Van Etten evaluates what a person can and can't do, searches out the tools and devices tailored for people with disabilities, and modifies some equipment to better suit an individual's particular needs.

For example, he said, a patient with severe paralysis might lack the strength to operate a wheelchair, even an electric one with a conventional hand-controlled switch. Van Etten could outfit the wheelchair with an electrical circuit that allows the operator to control the chair simply by puffing or sipping on a tube.

Judy Lynd, director of independent living services at the Rochester Rehabilitation Center, said rehabilitation engineers combine the talents of two professions.

"First of all, they have their knowledge and engineering skills," Lynd said. "But they also have an awareness of the limitations of the disabled."

Van Etten owes his interest in rehabilitation engineering to his own disabilities.

He recalls the discomfort he felt as a child when school officials arranged for him to eat in the school cafeteria at a lower table with a chair suited to his smaller size — but away from all the other children. Disabled people, he believes, should be allowed to fit in with the rest of the world as much as possible, not shunted aside.

While Van Etten was a student at the University of Central Florida, a professor piqued his interest in biomedical engineering. He pursued the field further while earning a master's degree in that field at the University of Florida.

"About 50 percent of my cases are just informing individuals of the options," Van Etten said.

Hundreds of companies around the country manufacture and sell wheelchairs, crutches and other aids for the country's 10 million to 20 million disabled.

Only a handful of firms offer more sophisticated gadgets. Van Etten said he often must make

small pieces of equipment himself — the puff-sip wheelchair control, for instance, or a similar device to control a computer.

But before he takes on a client's request, he makes sure the person has come to terms with being disabled and doesn't have unrealistic expectations or demands.

"You have to go through a kind of attitudinal change," said Van Etten, "recognizing you have a disability."

For dwarfs, the Little People of America can help foster that recognition, Van Etten believes.

"If the organization can do anything, it can build a positive image" for dwarfs, he said.

Increasingly, the LPA has protested what members see as the insensitive treatment of dwarfs in the popular media. The film *Under the Rainbow*, a fictional story with comedian Chevy Chase about the dwarfs who went to Hollywood to play Munchkins in *The Wizard of Oz*, prompted an outcry from many Little People members, Van Etten said.

"It showed little people in a kind of demeaning manner. They were idiots."

Joan Ablon, a medical anthropologist at the University of California at San Francisco and an expert on dwarfs, called the Little People of America "a very remarkable, effective organization."

Besides helping its members better accept their condition, the LPA also seeks to foster awareness among doctors of the specific problems dwarfs face.

The causes of dwarfism number from 100 to 200. Van Etten said the vast majority of dwarfs are disproportional: Their condition results from deformities in which the long bones — the legs and the arms — fail to grow with the rest of the body; their heads and trunks are usually the same size as those people of average height.

The group also includes dwarfs with other conditions in which the trunk may also be foreshortened. Both Van Etten and his wife are disproportional dwarfs.

But some dwarfs are proportional; they lack necessary growth hormones, and while they mature physically, they remain the size

and proportion of a child all their lives. The term "midget" applies only to dwarfs in this group.

Theirs is the only form of dwarfism that can be cured, if doctors detect the condition early enough in life and give them growth hormones before their bones mature.

While most dwarfs may learn to cope with their short stature, they still face serious medical complications, usually of the bones and skeletal system.

Bone deformities often cause bowed legs. For years, Van Etten walked with crutches, and he has had surgery to realign his legs. He also has arthritis and wears a hearing aid and glasses to correct conditions associated with his dwarfism.

Doctors don't always recognize the unique difficulties dwarfs may face, said Van Etten. Some dwarfs have deformities of the spine that can pinch the spinal cord. Surgery on the spinal column can prevent paralysis, but doctors must know about the problem in order to treat it.

The Little People of America doesn't yet have a Rochester chapter, but Van Etten hopes to form one here. So does Phyllis Mueller of Fairport, whose 15-year-old daughter, Jennifer Burke, is a dwarf.

Mueller and her daughter have participated in the LPA for 14 years through regional meetings of the group.

"I've learned that the best way is to treat them just like any other child," Mueller said. "I think it's good for children who are dwarfs to be exposed to others, so they realize they aren't alone. You don't want to keep it a secret from them."

Van Etten agrees. Nor should the disabled — whether they are 6-foot people in wheelchairs or 3-foot people able to stand on their own feet — keep themselves a secret from the world, he said.

"We have to be in those shopping malls. We have to be visible in the tax office paying taxes. We have to be visible to the public."

And then he turned from his crusade to his profession:

"And that's where I can help."

Robert Van Etten's firm, *Adaptive Living*, is located at 1275-B Monroe Ave.

There will be a meeting of people interested in support groups for dwarfs and their parents on Sunday, June 9, at 1 p.m. at the home of Eugene and Phyllis Mueller, 14 Fairfield Drive, Fairport.



# Hormones offer chance to grow

FROM PAGE 1B

from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a rare, incurable virus infection that attacks the brain and central nervous system. The other two are suspected to have died from the same disease.

Scientists believe the virus causing the disease may have been transmitted through the pituitary hormone products.

"It seemed suspicious because it's a very rare disease," Food and Drug Administration spokesman Donald McLearn said of the deaths. "It normally afflicts people between 40 and 80 years old."

While the hormones are no longer being distributed and the National Institutes of Health have halted a growth-hormone program because of the scare, individual research centers have been allowed to continue using supplies they have in stock, said Dr. Kenneth McCormick, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

"They're leaving the decision up to us as to whether ... to discontinue it," McCormick said.

About 15 patients at the university are receiving the hormones, and researchers have continued giving it because McCormick and others believe supplies here haven't been contaminated with the virus.

The three deaths were all among people who received hormones processed before 1977, according to federal officials. McCormick said changes in the way hormones are purified have reduced the chance the virus would remain in the drug.

Neither the Pautz nor Priest families fears the hormones will produce Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in their children.

"There's really nothing you can do about it," said Dawn Pautz. "I really don't think I should go around worrying about it for the rest of my life."

Indeed, the two families feel their biggest worry is that the supply of hormone has been cut off and their children may stop getting it when UR stockpiles run dry.

"You've got 5,000 kids across this country that all of a sudden are just going to be stuck where they are," said Aaron's father, Frank Priest. "I feel confident in the drug myself. The people who are making it must know what they're doing to some extent."

But Dr. Carleton Gajdusek, a

graduate of the UR and of the Harvard Medical School who now directs the laboratory of central nervous system diseases at the NIH, expressed a much graver fear when he spoke at an informal news conference during a visit to Rochester 10 days ago.

"The question is, how many of the batches (of hormone) were contaminated, when, and how much?" Gajdusek asked.

He is a leading expert in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a rare form of senility. He identified its cause as the same virus responsible for a degenerative brain disease called kuru among the Fore, a cannibalistic people in New Guinea.

Gajdusek studied kuru in the Fore in the late 1950s and concluded that the disease, which was always fatal, was transmitted when the Fore ate the brains of their dead.

And, he said, it is virtually impossible to make sure hormone supplies don't contain the virus, or to be sure it has been properly removed.

Following the first death, the National Institutes of Health considered whether to halt the program, and contacted specialists around the country associated with it, McLearn said.

After the other two deaths, the NIH suspended its program pending further study. On April 26, a Swedish manufacturer of the hormone, KabiVitrum Inc. of Stockholm, decided voluntarily to remove its hormone from the market. And on May 9, the FDA asked Serono Laboratories Inc., a division of Applied Research Systems in Geneva, Switzerland, to take its hormone off the market.

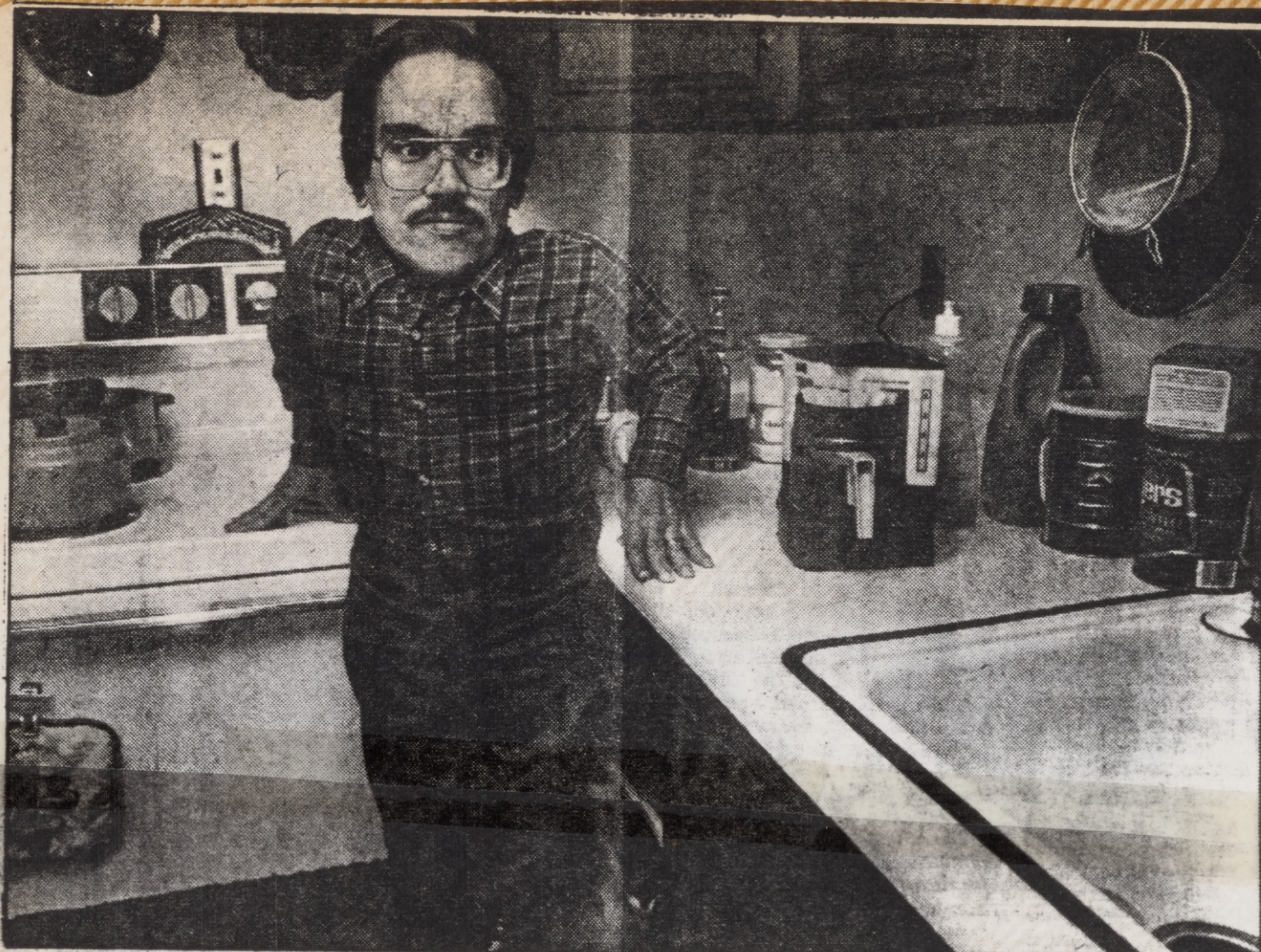
The FDA's McLearn said the hormone is not necessarily a life-or-death need for children who take it. The exceptions are about 200 nationwide who take it for "related hypoglycemia" — a special low blood-sugar condition. Without it, they cannot survive.

Natural hormones have always been scarce because of the shortage of pituitary glands, which like transplanted organs are obtained from cadavers. For that reason, researchers have been developing synthetic hormones and are testing them to determine if they are safe.

McLearn said the testing program has been accelerated because of the cutoff of the natural hormones. In addition, children who must take hormones for related hypoglycemia are also getting the synthetic hormone, he said.

McCormick said the University of Rochester will take part in the synthetic hormone tests.





Ben Brink Democrat and Chronicle

Robert Van Etten, a rehabilitation engineer and president of Little People of America, on his special raised kitchen floor.



Dennis R. Floss Democrat and Chronicle

Aaron Priest, 7, gets an injection of growth hormone — one of three each week — from his mother.



## ProSe

Many people have an overwhelming desire to help me. They try to protect and shelter me in the same way they would a child. Not a word may be said, but their mannerisms and expressions are a complete giveaway.

People react this way because I am a Little Person. The malformation of my joint structures means that I stand at three feet, four inches, and can only walk or stand for limited periods of time. When people meet me they have great difficulty accepting that my small stature has nothing to do with my age, maturity, independence, or mental ability. The knowledge that I am a 1984 graduate from the University of Maryland School of Law and a newly admitted member of the Ohio bar does little to shake their paternalistic feelings.

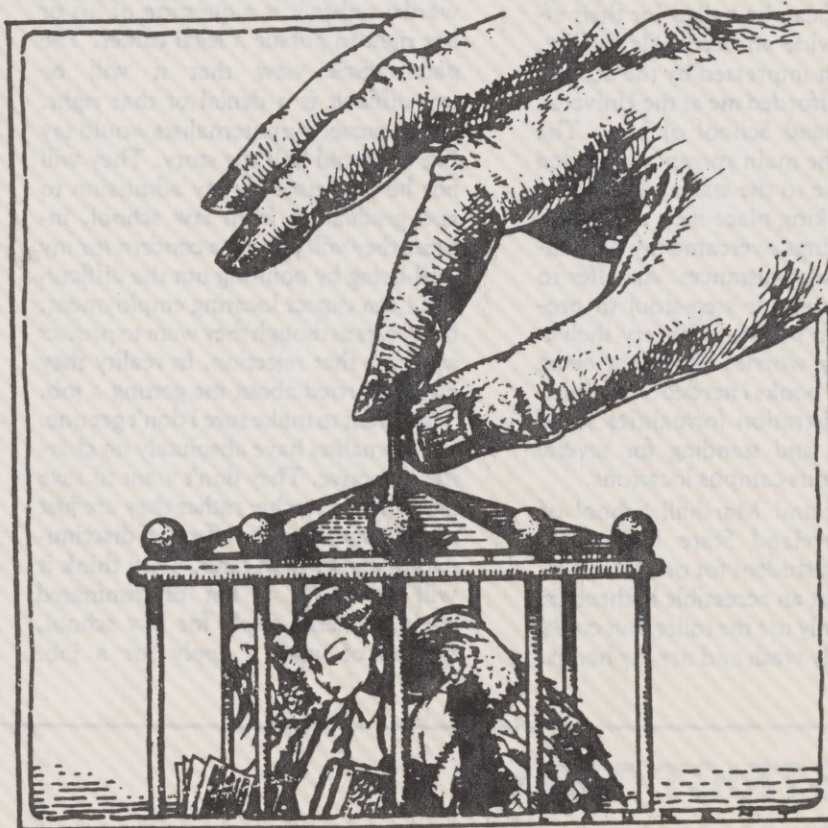
In fact, if some people had their way I would never have been given the opportunity to attend law school in the first place. Some people do not want law schools to recruit or admit students with disabilities. Of course they have their reasons. They worry about the difficulties disabled students will have adjusting to law school and finding a legal position after graduation.

Ordinarily it's comforting to know people are concerned about your well-being. Everyone worries about adjusting to law school and finding a job afterwards. It can actually warm the heart to know that there are still people in this world who care about people.

However, these people don't care about me or other people with disabili-

*Protection and  
paternalism:  
Someone who's  
experienced both  
asks that you  
learn the difference*

BY C. ANGELA VAN ETTEN



ties at all. Instead, they want to care for me. They seek to protect me not only from the rigors of law school, but also from the anguish of employment rejection. Well, I say in no uncertain terms, I don't need that sort of protection!

There is no way I can feel grateful to a so-called benefactor whose protective action interferes with my efforts to pursue a legal career. Such paternalism, in fact, offends me greatly. It can be sub-

stituted with a word that is equally offensive: discrimination. Indeed, paternalism is discrimination in disguise. How can you call it anything else, when it is used as a means to deny a person a place in law school on the basis of disability? The fact that the reason for exclusion is perceived as charitable and protective does nothing to ease the pain of being excluded.

Ray Marshall, the Secretary of Labor in 1980, expressed this view quite graphically when speaking at the President's Committee on Employment of the Hand-

icapped in the same year:

For handicapped people, it's not a matter of being forced to the back of the bus, it's getting on the bus in the first place. Schools, workplaces, stores, housing, and transportation have been built to exclude disabled people. The fact is that exclusion feels the same whether it is based on race, sex, age, or disability.

There is no doubt that people with disabilities are being excluded from law schools. Steps, inaccessible bathrooms, long distances from the parking lot, inaccessible mass transit

systems, and negative attitudes all serve to prevent us getting into law school. Under the guise of paternalism, people attempt to protect those with disabilities from these difficulties by excluding them from the program.

What the paternalists fail to recognize is that the difficulties from which they protect us are things we shouldn't even be faced with.

A school facility open to the majori-



ty, but excluding minority, discriminates against that minority and violates their civil right to participate in the program. Those of us with disabilities need the protection of civil rights laws to include us, not the protection of paternalism to keep us out.

The environment is built by people for people. Where it does not serve all people equally it must be changed. Law schools need to understand that the Constitution, which they so proudly defend and interpret to the agile minds of their students, loses its meaning if the fundamental right of citizens with disabilities to be treated equally is ignored.

That equality will only come when people with disabilities are given equal opportunity to participate. It will happen when discriminatory physical barriers are removed. Some law schools already appreciate the true meaning of equality and can be hailed for their efforts to provide an accessible facility.

I was most impressed by the accommodations afforded me at the University of Maryland School of Law. The elevator at the main entrance provided an alternative to the stairs. A specially reserved parking place next to the law school buildings overcame my difficulty with walking distances. An offer to purchase a suitable step-stool to provide access to books on library shelves removed any worries about not being able to reach books I needed. An adjustment of registration formalities saved me walking and standing for several hours at various campus locations.

The Cleveland Marshall School of Law of Cleveland State University, where I was a student for one semester, can even boast an accessible bathroom. I could not only use the toilet, but could independently wash and dry my hands.

Both the faucets and the hand towels were within my reach. Being able to see into the mirror on the wall told me much more than the state of my appearance: it told me the school welcomed my presence.

The accommodations needed are so basic, it is hard to understand how they can be refused. Finally it is being understood that a person's ability to succeed in law school is not affected by race, age, or sex. How long will it take for people to understand that physical barriers are not a reason to exclude people with disabilities from law school either?

In my view it will take as long as people need to understand that persons with disabilities have as much right to be in law school as anyone else. It is not a question of how difficult it will be for a person with a disability to adjust to law school or find a legal position afterwards; rather it is a question of his or her right to pursue a legal career. The paternalistic view that it will be too difficult is a denial of that right.

Of course, the paternalists would say I've only told half the story. They will not be impressed by my admission to and graduation from law school. Instead they will parade a concern for my well-being by pointing out the difficulties I can expect locating employment. It appears as though they want to protect me from that rejection. In reality they aren't worried about me getting a job. They want to make sure I don't get one.

Paternalists have absolutely no charitable motive. They don't want to save me from heartache; rather they are just making sure I feel the effects of discrimination earlier than later. They think it will be easier if I'm discriminated against when I apply for law school, instead of when I apply for a job.

Well, the paternalists are wrong, and people with disabilities are not so easily fooled. We will fight first for our equal opportunity to obtain a legal education and later will tackle our right to be considered as equal candidates in job applications. With law degrees under our belts, we'll be more than ready for any bigot who wants to take us on.

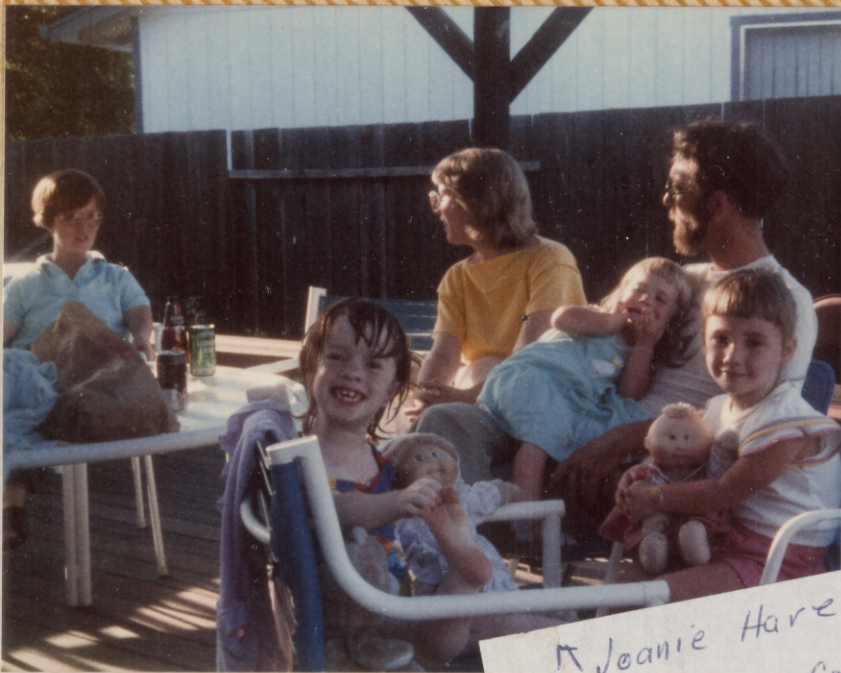
Believe me, more than any other group in society, people with disabilities need a legal education. It is our best hope to successfully defend our civil rights. We don't want to remain dependent on others to fight for us. No matter how noble, others tire in their efforts on our behalf. People with disabilities cannot afford to give up. ■

## Some don't think tossing dwarfs funny

**SYDNEY, Australia (UPI)** — Four-foot tall Robbie Randell said being flung through the air by nightclub bouncers in Australia's first dwarf-throwing contest was a "fun thing," but not everyone saw the sport in it.

Outraged residents gathered outside the Penthouse nightclub in Surfer's Paradise on the northeastern resort coast Tuesday night and screamed in protest as bouncers inside took turns launching Randell into a mattress-padded landing zone.





Jeanie Hare - June 13, 1985  
 The Poret family  
 Bee Hare Roy Church  
 Richard



Pat LA RUSSA  
 The Farrington Mills 9/13  
 Dee Haines - Karen Poret  
 LA RUSSA - 6-15-85





PONZAS-JULY 13  
1985



Geno Ponza, Judi Weaver  
David (C) - Barbara + Tom Vance



Dr Bruce Blumberg, Carol + fam  
Tap Dancer Brandy Adonis - Kresc



Mary Hughes - Donna's mom +  
Dr. Bill ConTi have a talk  
Frank + Renee in background





↑ Jacob Osier  
 Judi Weaver Bec Hare  
 Jackie East Ricky  
 Lisa Datis Adot

More action  
 at Ponzas - 1985



Harriet S. Alice Adnza →  
 Blumberg  
 Barb and Tom Vance  
 P.V. - ↓







## Posada Vallarta Hotel & Village

Convention  
Center

Tennis Courts

#1 #2 #3

Tennis  
Court #4

1711 1611 1511  
1736 1636 1536

Children's  
Pool

Albercas

Pool

1811 1836  
1911 1936  
2011 2036  
2111 2118

Spanish  
Patio

2119 2211 2311  
2136 2236 2336

Aqueduct  
Bar

1411 1434  
1311 1334  
1211 1234

1111 1134  
1011 1034

Tennis  
Court #5

Plant  
Nursery

551 553  
541 543  
531 533  
521 523  
511 513  
501 503

751 753  
741 743  
731 733  
721 723  
711 713  
701 703

801 811 821 831 841  
803 813 823 833 843

Sales and Banquet  
Offices

Main Entrance  
Beauty Parlor and  
Barber Shop

Front  
Desk  
Shops  
Tour  
Agency

Ground Level:  
La Noria  
Coffee Shop  
2nd Level:  
La Capilla  
Ballroom

401 411 421 431  
403 413 423 433

601 611 621 631  
603 613 623 633

901 911 921  
903 913 923

451 453 441 443

671 661 651 641  
673 663 653 643

961 951 941 931  
963 953 943 933

Los Arcos Restaurant  
La Estancia Bar  
Lobby Bar  
La Terraza Restaurant  
La Fuente Restaurant  
Alberca  
El Pueblito Bar  
El Pueblito Restaurant

Palapas Playa

Map



**Posada Vallarta**  
Hotel & Village  
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

## Offices

Hotel Offices:

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico  
Tel: 2-1459, 2-1378, 2-1041  
Telex: 065-504

Executive Sales Office:

919 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
Tel: (212) 888-1000  
Telex: 968408

Mexico City Office:

Havre No. 7-104  
Mexico 6, D.F.  
Tel: (905) 514-4869, (905) 533-6440, (905) 528-7896  
Telex: 01774305





1985

PUERTO VALLARTA



"The Professionals"

WELCOMES YOU!



Talent Show





General Meeting  
 Paul, Mary-Ed, Barbs Aring  
 Jones Carlen  
 ← Angela Van Etten



Adam Brown - Jennifer G.  
 Sarah - W  
 Sarah - Harriet, Adam - Japan  
 ↓ John Lusk - Satou



Gusan B, Mary Henning  
 ← Leslie, Lydia T.  
 Barbara D, Ric G - Poki Y.  
 DiGT Caues





FIESTA - 85-  
"Over view"  
Joyce, Julie Cohen, H.S.V



Aron's Parents - Israel



Royalty - <sup>7</sup> PARA-SAILING  
← Robert Van Etten, Pres



## Small in beautiful

by: Miguel Angel  
INFANTE Sharon  
VAN BRAMER

The Little People of America have chosen Puerto Vallarta as the seat of their 1985 national conventional; they arrived 'en masse' Friday July 19th and report that the first thing they were made aware of was the kind nature of the 'natives' and the warm hospitality. That certainly is a welcome and flattering first assessment of our town!

Frist to arrive and thus be on hand to welcome the rest of the

Please see page 2



MR. NICK de la Valle, president of the Little People of America, he and the are in town until July 26th for their 1985 national convention. Welcome! (Photo by J. Escobedo).

group was association leader, Nich de la Valle and his second Sandy Etchinson. Several members dither in Carlos Mungia's lovely LA HACIENDA Restaurant Friday night and related how one couple had driven all the way from Alberta, Canada to attend the convention. Yet another, well-heeled couple flew down in their own plane.

The Little People of America is a group of midgets and dwarfs, of all professions, who join together in an effort to improve the quality of life for people such as themselves. They seek to equillize medical services, enhance job and educational opportunities and even arrange for adoptions. In fact, Mr. Nick de la Valle and his wife have brought into their home 4 adopted children.

Convention organizers expect 375 participants, but a spokes-person for the group indicated that that number has already been surpassed. The conventioners' itinerary was rele-

ase by Mr. José Luis Vázquez, the gentleman in charge of public relations for Viajes Parmac, the agency handling the convention. Saturday began with a tour of the bay aboard one of P.V.'s several recreational yachts and an integral part of the program will be a series of medical workshops directed by specialists in the field of dwarfism.

The Hotel Posada Vallarta is handling the group's accommodations; hourly the number of vehicles in the hotel parking increase as families from all over the Republic come to Vallarta to participate in the convention seeking support for perhaps that one member of the family that is different.

The Little People of America National Convention officially will run from July 20 to July 26. Puerto Vallarta is fortunate to have these individuals among us. NUEVO DIA wishes each and every one of them and their families an enjoyable stay as well as a productive and successful convention.

NUEVO DIA

SUNDAY, July 21/1985 No. 29



# NUEVO DIA

PUERTO VALLARTA JAL., MEXICO



WEDNESDAY, July 24/1985 No. 32

## under control Little People

By: Sharon VAN BRAMER  
Miguel Angel INFANTE

The number of individuals attending the Little People of America Annual Convention here in Puerto Vallarta went up by one today when the group welcomed one of its most famous members, world-renowned actor of TV and screen Hervé "Tattoo" Villacheaize.

The welcome given the star of "Fantasy Island" (from which his nickname derives) was lavish, or at least more than the gentleman and his lovely French escort expected.



The Little People of America Annual Convention runs through July 26, at the Posada Vallarta.

Please see page 2



Villachaize said he felt like he was 'back home'. Goes to show that the Latin saying "Mis casa es tu casa" is not just so much hot air.

Sr. Villachaize was interviewed by NUEVO DIA yesterday evening, the night of his arrival, at the Posada Vallarta. A superb dresser and an articulate spokesman for his group, Villachaize stated that he wasn't on hand just to add a little glamour to the event (though that he undeniably did). Rather he is sincerely concerned for the welfare of little people and feels that reunions of this nature are a step in the right direction--all the little people of the world should communicate regularly in order to pool resources on such subjects and psychological support derived from such intercourse is without measure. He added that little people need to demonstrate to the world that being small of stature does not necessarily mean one is limited in talent or capability. Indeed, numbered among the conventioners are various professionals and experts from a myriad of important and exciting fields--there is even an individual from NASA.

NUEVO DIA wishes to thank Tatoo for his valuable time and takes this opportunity to once again wish all the Little People of America a constructive and enjoyable convention and a pleasant stay in Vallarta.

## Exitosa la exhibición de modas de la Gente Pequeña de América

Dentro de los eventos de familiarización que se organizan dentro de la Primera Convención Internacional de Gente Pequeña de América, destaca el desfile de modas que se celebró ayer, en un salón del hotel Posada Vallarta, sitio sede del evento. El desfile fue presentado por Mary Carter, y las modelos fueron los propios asistentes al evento social.

Las guapas modelos lucieron vestuario de noche y ropas para diversos climas; desde el pantalón corto hasta la blusa ligera de algodón.

Este evento resultó lucido y de gran ambiente, en donde además se contó con la presencia de Hervé Villechaize "TATOO".

La reunión de los integrantes del grupo de la Gente Pequeña de América se vio muy animada con la presencia de personajes célebres del cine y la televisión como este Herveé Villachaise a quien muchos conocen por su participación en la serie de televisión "La Isla de la Fantasía", al lado de nuestro compatriota Carlos Montalván.







MURIEL RIED CASSIE RUPP.  
 MONICA HARPFINGER  
 Karen Kragerud  
 Mike & Butch, Robert Hall, Vi To  
 mid  
 Tiffany Kafka - Butch - (bottom)



NUEVO



DIA

Sociales



## BRIEFLY NOTED

### The short view

In *Little People in America: The Social Dimensions of Dwarfism* (Praeger, \$27.95, paper, \$14.95), medical anthropologist Joan Ablon portrays the lives of otherwise ordinary people stigmatized by a physical difference—profoundly short stature. Because of their appearance, dwarfs must cope with job discrimination, feelings of isolation and a lifetime of stares and comments from strangers. In an informal but detailed account, the author records the little person's "ongoing struggle to be accepted as a normal, regular person."

Ablon's 24 subjects recount their experiences from childhood, when they first received the diagnosis of dwarfism, through their adult decisions about whether or not to have (possibly dwarf) children of their own. Ablon stresses that these are in-

dividuals, some happy and some less so, who cannot be pigeonholed into the universal "dwarf personalities" described by previous researchers.

The book's major focus is on how through participation in Little People of America (LPA)—a self-help group founded by actor Billy Barty—the subjects (all LPA members) have enhanced their social identity and self-image. For many dwarfs, LPA provides their first chance to meet and get to know others like themselves without size as an issue. One woman, recalling her first LPA convention, says, "All of a sudden I wasn't 'Little Clara' any more, I was just Clara." Ablon found that by providing role models and opportunities to share common experiences, LPA played a central role in these people's processes of self-acceptance.

—Mary Travis

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PSYCHOLOGY TODAY / JULY 1985

### DENNIS THE MENACE/Hank Ketcham



When I grow up, I don't know whether to be a tall midget or a very short giant.

Success  
N-LIFE  
PRESENTS

JOHN AND GREG RICE

Think  
big



Hosted By:  
Robert Tilton  
President, Founder  
Success N-Life



THINK BIG...with Big Thinkers John & Greg Rice. These millionaire midgets are coming to Success N-Life to prompt you to "Think big, work hard, and be great."

"As big men in the business world, they candidly admit, 'It doesn't take much of a man to be a success. It just takes all of him.'"

SEPTEMBER 21  
7:00 PM

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Dallas Morning News

San Francisco Chronicle  
July 17, 1985



# Lab owner lands role as an 'Ewok'

By Catherine Schutz  
Special to The Tribune

RICHMOND — It must have been quite a sight.

It was the final casting call at the Lucas film studios in San Rafael for the two primary fantasy creatures — the enormous Marauders and the pint-size Ewoks — that will populate George Lucas' new, as yet unnamed, TV movie.

"We were saying that if you were under 6-foot-5, you're too short and if you were over 4-foot-3, you were too tall," recalled producer Tom Smith.

Among those lucky ones to make the cut — at the short end of the scale — was Richmond resident Mike Lipsky, who stands 4 feet 2 in his foam and fur Ewok feet.

Lipsky, 41, has not exactly been hanging around Hollywood drugstores waiting to be discovered.

The owner of a successful dental laboratory here, Lipsky's acting experience consisted of jumping out from behind a curtain as a cigar-smoking dragon in a production of Stan Freberg's "St. George and the Dragonet" at St. Mary's High School in Berkeley, some 20 years ago.

Somebody at the Lucas studios knew somebody who knew him, and in late April, Lipsky got a phone call from the casting director inviting him to an audition.

"They wanted to see how mobile I was," he said. "They had us walk, run and jump on a mat, and respond to commands like 'come here,' and 'stop,' while wearing the costume."

Because the actors are completely masked, they must convey their thoughts and emotions through body language.

"The Ewok characters are de-

fined by pantomime," said Smith. "We were looking for people who moved in interesting ways."

The studio eventually cast about 20 Ewok players. One group of 10, including Lipsky, appears in all the Ewok sequences. The rest were called in for crowd scenes.

Being an Ewok is hot work, Lipsky said. The actors wear layers of costume. The first is what he called cotton "kiddie pajamas with feet in them." Next comes 2-inch-thick foam rubber padding on the legs, arms and torso to give the characters the proper chubbiness.

The fur suit goes over the padding, with feet and hands attached separately. The head with its leather hood goes on last.

"It's like a sauna inside the costume," Lipsky said.

When preparing for a scene, the Ewoks stand with their heads tucked underneath their arms receiving their instructions. Then comes the cry of "Heads on!" and the actors scurry into place so shooting can begin.

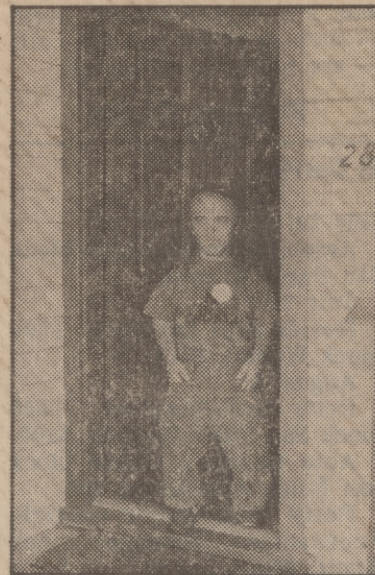
Lipsky spent most of June in Marin County filming the Ewok sequences, sometimes working six days a week.

His work consisted of a lot of action, running around, falling, "getting into fights with the bad guys," he said, but added, "None of us gets shot."

Bay Area dancer Wendy Rogers choreographed the Ewok movements, and also coached the Marauders who, standing well over 6½ feet, had other movement problems to overcome.

Lipsky admits that picking him out of the crowd may not be easy. Ewoks look pretty much alike.

Mike Lipsky, far left, plays role of an 'Ewok' in upcoming George Lucas film for television special. Below, Lipsky at home in Richmond.



By Roy H. Williams/The Tribune

The teddy bear-like creatures made their debut in "Return of the Jedi," Lucas' third "Star Wars" movie.

In interviews about the "Star Wars" saga, Lucas has said he always had a creature of goodness and ingenuity in mind for his story, but the Ewok did not materialize until the third film.

"When we started 'Return of the Jedi,' George knew exactly that he wanted the Ewoks in it," said Smith, who was formerly general manager of Industrial Light and Magic, Lucas' special effects wizards.

"We wanted a character that would be very cute, but could be industrious as well."

Without revealing plot specifics, Smith said the new movie will focus on the adventures of the Ewok, Wicket, and Cindel, the little girl who appeared in last year's TV movie, "The Ewok Adventure." The new film has much more action than the first one, he said.

Wicket is played by Warwick



Davis, the 16-year-old English actor who played the creature in "Jedi" and "The Ewok Adventure." Aubrey Miller returns as Cindel.

There's also an evil witch, played by Sean Phillips, and two new fantasy creatures — the huge Marauders, led by a Marauder King, and Teek, described by a studio publicist as a lovable and feisty pet that belongs to a lovable and feisty old man, played by Will Brimley.

The movie is scheduled for release around Thanksgiving on ABC.

Although he lacks acting experience, Lipsky is no novice performer. He started playing drums in his teens and supported himself in the early 1960s as a drummer.

He played at the Continental Club in Oakland, backing up local blues singers and playing between groups like the Temptations and Martha and the Vandellas.

He toured with Joe Tex and

has played in San Francisco topless clubs, an experience he described as "a little different."

He trained to be a welder through Laney College, but went to work in a dental laboratory in San Francisco, then quit to play drums full time.

When the music business slowed down, he went back to the dental lab and later opened his own lab with his first wife.

He has operated the lab, which prepares crowns and bridges, by himself for 10 years.

He continued to play drums and met his present wife, Debby, a singer, when he played with her band, Swiftwater.

Their son, Adam, a normal-size 6-year-old, is proud of his Ewok T-shirt that bears the message, "Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the forest."

During filming, Lipsky did his lab work at night. His wife and parents, Donald and Elizabeth Lipsky of Kensington, pitched in

with pickups and deliveries.

Lipsky says that being a dwarf has not interfered with his life. He has raced boats and cars and is building a drag racer in his garage that he hopes will be ready to race in a year.

"Being short hasn't bothered me at all," he said. "This time (the Ewok movie) I took advantage of it. Being short is why they used me."

He declined to reveal how much he was paid for his work, but added, "I did it for the fun of it — the smell of the greasepaint."

And there have been some interesting fringe benefits, like attending the Fourth of July picnic that Lucas threw for his employees and friends.

Michael Jackson was among the guests.

"His bodyguard motioned me over and introduced me," Lipsky said. "I shook his hand and said, 'My name is Mike, too.' He seemed like a pretty nice guy."





**IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED SISTER,  
HELEN LOPEZ**  
Died August 22, 1978  
Miss you! Cathy & family  
August 22, 1985

**LUCE, PASQUALE "PAT" C.** of Hayward, August 20, 1985. Dearly beloved husband of Phyllis Luce of Hayward; loving son of Jennie Luce of New York; devoted father of Pat Luce Jr. of Stockton, Philip Luce, Paul "Beaver" Luce, and Toni Murray, all of Hayward; grandfather of Brian Luce of Hayward. Also survived by 3 brothers.

A native of New York, aged 57 years. Owner of Pat's Lawnmower Shop. Member of Little People of America, Local & National Chapters, District 12 Director (California, Hawaii & Nevada) 1978-1981; manager of the baseball team of the Stumps; Oakland Moose Lodge, No. 324; Sons of American Legion, Squadron 1448, Oriskany, NY; Alameda County Mixed Leagues (Bowling) Match League, Pen Pal; Better Business Bureau; and Sons of Italy, Utica, NY.

Friends are invited to attend funeral services at the chapel of MACHADO'S HAYWARD MOR-

TUARY, 22297 Mission Blvd, Hayward on Friday, August 23 at 12 Noon. Interment will follow.  
**MACHADO'S HAYWARD MORTUARY**  
Pat & John Machado, Directors  
581-8901  
August 22, 1985

**MACK, ARTHUR H.** of Castro Valley on August 20, 1985. Beloved husband of Evelyn Mack of Castro Valley. Loving father of Arthur H. Mack Jr. of Castro Valley. Beloved brother of eleven. Survived by many friends and relatives. A member of the Masonic Lodge Bayview #401 and also a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for 47 years. A native of California, aged 81 years. Friends are invited to attend the Services from the North Chapel of the CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES MORTUARY, 32992 Mission Blvd, Hayward on Friday, August 23, 1985 at 11:00am. Visitation Thursday from 5-9pm. Entombment: Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to the Heart Fund in Mr. Mack's memory.

**CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES  
MORTUARY, HAYWARD**  
538-3131 or 471-3363  
August 22, 1985

Page 10A—West County Times

## in the nation

### Dwarf-tossing event banned in Chicago

**CHICAGO** — Dwarf-tossing, a new bar sport popularized in Australia, has been given the bum's rush in Chicago by an outraged Mayor Harold Washington, who says it is "degrading and mean-spirited."

Contestants from as far away as Boston and California were to have competed for \$500 to see who could toss a dwarf the farthest. But the event today at O'Sullivan's Public House was banned by a judge who agreed to a request by Washington and city officials.

"This alleged contest is degrading and mean-spirited," the mayor said. "It endangers its participants, and it is repugnant to anyone truly committed to eliminating prejudice in any group."

424-85 — Oakland Tribune

## A chapter for 'little people'

The Associated Press

**TURLOCK** — Susan Barnes fumed about her boss for demeaning her work because of her height, even though the 4-foot-6 Lodi woman stood only six inches shorter than him.

But Ken Williams noted he got his first job and stayed for 20 years because, at 4-foot-3, he could work in a nursery basement without banging his head on ceiling pipes.

Pride in their shortness recently drew them to the Turlock home of another dwarf who is trying to re-establish a chapter of Little People of America in the northern San Joaquin Valley.

The group offers a chance for "little people" to socialize, learn the medical consequences of dwarfism, get advice on clothing and even earn educational scholarships provided by the group.

At 3-foot-11, Kathy Duncan, 33, was the shortest of the dwarfs who met at her house. Her kitchen showed examples of the everyday barriers encountered by short people and their simple solutions, stools for one.

"Adaptation is part of our

life," said Sal Ibarra of Lodi.

They told each other how they have adjusted to stares, crass questions and rudeness from average-size people.

When Ibarra meets new people, they often ask how old he is, how tall he is and how much he weighs.

"I get, 'What's wrong with you?'" said Theresa Brazil, a 20-year-old psychology major at Modesto Junior College. "I've never had problems making friends once I get talking. I get through the whole thing of me being short very fast."

Ibarra agreed, saying, "We have to get beyond that, the questions, before we can have a relationship."

Several in the group said they take responsibility for making average-size people feel comfortable. Nevertheless, job-hunting can be a special chore.

Employers "look at you like you can't do it, so you have to come across as overconfident," Ibarra said. "It's a game and we've all got to play it, I guess."

"We're not handicapped. We're just short," Brazil said.



# Movie lets small man make it big

## At 4'2", he's perfect to play a cute, furry Ewok of Endor

By Kerry Hamill  
Times staff writer

RICHMOND — Mike Lipsky wasn't discovered on a soda fountain stool or because some director noticed his face on the cover of *Gentleman's Quarterly* magazine. Casting directors called looking for him one morning as he was having breakfast in his Richmond kitchen.

He wasn't called for his face or his talent. Rather, for the first time in his life, Lipsky's size got him a break.

"Are you 4 foot 2 inches tall?" Lipsky said the stranger at the other end of the receiver asked.

"I answered yes, and she set up an appointment for a screen test," he said.

Lipsky, 42, was cast as a pint-sized Ewok in the latest George Lucas fantasy film after two days of testing convinced directors he could effectively express himself through body language. His role as one of 20 lovable and sympathetic characters, who attack giant marauders on the planet Endor, required a layered, furry costume and the physical agility to jump, roll and express complex emotions without words.

Casting directors in "Ewoks: The Battle for Endor," scouted talent by size, said producer Tom Smith. They sought dwarfs and basketball players to face one another in elaborate costumes as the tiny, innocent Ewoks attacked by ugly giants who invade their Endor home.

"Basically, we spent two days running around in this heavy costume, acting mean and holding weapons for the choreographers during the audition," said Lipsky. "If you just sit there idle, you look like a dummy and they can get that from a mannequin. Every moment you had to look alive."

The offer to film a movie appealed to Lipsky's combined sense of art and adventure, and he ac-

cepted the job, which pays \$75 per day plus overtime.

The directors appreciated his energy, and Lipsky ended up in more scenes than any other Ewok. He was even given a solo scene, although he will not be recognized under his costume.

The final product may be fantasy and adventure, but the filming process was definitely real life, said Lipsky.

Through the shooting months of June and July, he donned a suffocating costume while filming on the Lucas Ranch production set in the sweltering northern Marin County heat. After filming days that often ran for 12 hours, Lipsky raced home to maintain his own business as a dental technician who molds bridges and crowns for the patients of East Bay dentists.

"I couldn't do this again for any period of time," said Lipsky, a homeowner and father of a 6-year-old boy. "I'm not 20 years old anymore and I have responsibilities. This film was tough on my business."

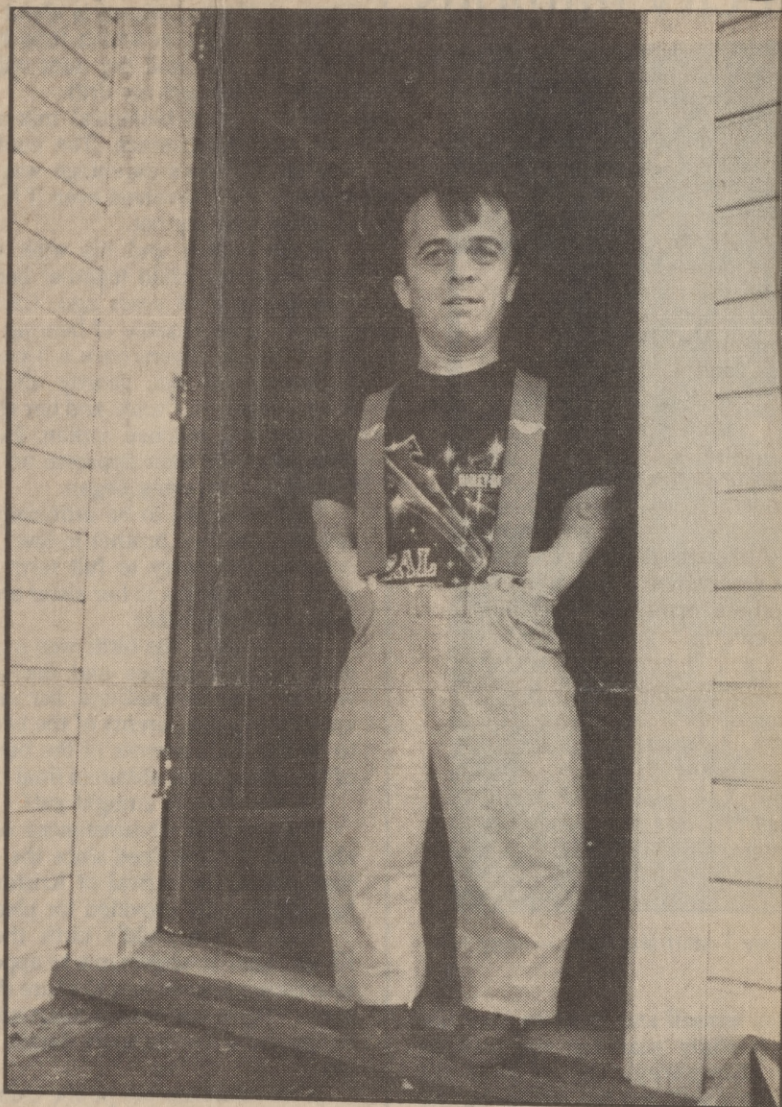
The made-for-television movie will air on ABC Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. Lipsky said he will gather his son, Adam, and a group of close friends to watch the movie so he can point himself out among the groups of Ewoks in most scenes.

"I have to say, it sure was a lot more fun than making teeth," he said.

Before the Lucas film, Lipsky's only acting experience was jumping from behind a curtain as a cigar-smoking dragon in a production of "St. George and the Dragon," while attending St. Mary's High School in Berkeley more than 20 years earlier.

Since the filming concluded, Lipsky refused another film role and does not anticipate that he will act in a movie again. He did accept a modeling job that was much easier and far more lucrative financially, he said.

Lipsky is a former drummer



Times photo/David Toerge

**SIZE AND AGILITY** helped Mike Lipsky land a role as an Ewok in an upcoming television movie.

who backed up Joe Tex, the Temptations, Little Richard and Bobby Freeman during a string of gigs in the 1960s and 1970s.

The drumsticks were retired when Lipsky married and had a son.

Lipsky is also a former winning race car driver, and is currently building a drag racer in his garage. He is looking for a sponsor and hopes the car will be ready for racing next year.

All his life, Lipsky said he never expected to be treated different-

ly because of his size. Since childhood, he always socialized with average-sized people and led a normal life.

He remembers that as a child he attended a support group for dwarfs and midgets, called Little People of America, and he was shocked at how other little people looked, he said.

"It was a rather startling experience," he said. "I had not been around people my own size all my life, and it was like looking in a mirror."





Clancy Brown, right, becomes pals with David Rappaport in 'The Bride'



## Film Reviews

# Bridesmade

Poor Dr. Frankenstein — no wedding Beals for him in the latest version of a favorite Hollywood tale

By Glenn Lovell  
Mercury News Film Writer

**'M**ASTER, Master — the monster's lonely. He says he wants a mate, Master."

"Hold onto your hump, Igor. I've only got two hands and so many spare body parts. The old boy will just have to wait until we get a fresh shipment in from the graveyard."

"But, Master, he's so lonely and sad ..."

"Oh, very well, Igor. Switch on the juice in my tower laboratory and I'll be up in a jiff. This time I might try something a little snazzier. Have you seen 'Flashdance,' Igor? Now there's a bod my monster might get worked up about. No more hissing, frizzy-haired Elsa Lanchesters for that lad. Not on your artificial life."

□

After "Young Frankenstein" and the summer's sexy "Bride of Frankenstein" update, "Weird Science," it's impossible to look at anything with an obsessed doctor and a hand-stitched monster without cracking up.

Even Mary Shelley, author of the original "Frankenstein," thought better of giving her misunderstood monster a bride. In the novel, Baron Frankenstein, disgusted with himself and his creature's perverse lust, destroys the female counterpart even before it is sparked to life.

If only director Franc Roddam

### The Bride

★★

**Rating:** R (violence, fleeting nudity)

**Cast:** Sting, Jennifer Beals, Geraldine Page, Clancy Brown

**Director:** Franc Roddam

**Screenwriter:** Lloyd Fonvielle

**At:** Meridian Quad, Oakridge Six, Saratoga Six, Sunnyvale Six, Southland Cinemas, Cine-dome Seven West, Aptos Twin

("The Lords of Discipline") and screenwriter Lloyd Fonvielle had followed the Baron's example.

But nooooo. They have to go and whip up a pretty, willful mate for Frankie Jr. in "The Bride" (opening today), and have her played in a series of coy poses by "Flashdance's" Jennifer Beals, no less.

The Baron? He's played by Sting as a snippy, aristocratic playboy who, like Pygmalion, is initially obsessed with creating "the new woman — equal to all men." But once scorned by his sexy creation,



Jennifer Beals

the baron changes his tune. In fact, he becomes something of a beast himself.

The most interesting thing about "The Bride," apart from the lusty Bosch-like medieval setting, is the monstrous bridegroom, who has escaped from the baron's lab and is now on the road to Budapest accompanied by a friendly circus dwarf. That "mistake," whose name is Viktor, is played with a minimum of green makeup and arm-thrashing movement by someone named Clancy Brown.

The scenes shared by Brown and David Rappaport as his dwarf protector have charm and poignant qualities we don't usually associate with Frankenstein movies.

The rest of "The Bride," however, must be written off as a fascinating experiment gone haywire. Roddam has ignored the expectations that come with casting Sting and Beals and instead delivered a romantic "Beauty and the Beast" fable with a minimum of camp asides and an upbeat message about following the call of one's heart. The picture is so good-hearted in places you half expect Viktor to break into a chorus of "Climb Every Mountain."

If nothing else, this is an interesting new slant on an old story. But with the severely limited Beals drawing unintentional laughs as a somnambulant wild child (she thinks she's an orphaned amnesiac) and with Sting asked to do little more than glare and sling brandy glasses into the fireplace, there's frightfully little to hold the attention.





# LITTLE PEOPLE of AMERICA, Inc.

Founder - BILLY BARTY

## Dwarf-tossing leaps to American shores

By Mike Royko

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When I wrote about the Australian tavern sport of dwarf-throwing a few months ago, I wondered when it would spread to Chicago.

Well, it's here. Or it will be here in November. A West Side bar has announced that it will hold the first dwarf-tossing contest in this city's history. It may very well be the first dwarf-tossing competition in American history.

For those who are not followers of this sport, it is simple enough. All you need is a dwarf who is willing to be tossed a feet onto a large mattress, a measuring tape and people silly enough to take part.

It originated in Australia as a contest among professional bouncers. The winning thug claims to have thrown a little fellow some 30 feet, but that record is unofficial because there is no international sports organization that sanctions dwarf-tosses.

The game spread from Australia to England, where a hulking truck driver recently won the British Dwarf-Throwing Championships with a toss of 11 feet 5 inches.

The English are claiming the world record. They say the Australian record is probably phony because nobody could possibly toss a real, 98-pound dwarf, which the English used, anywhere near 30 feet. They've even been hinting that the Aussies tossed an infant or a rubber doll.

That, of course, is one of the problems in dwarf-tossing. There are no real rules or guidelines as to My reply to Letters To The Editor: As a member of the dwarf community (pseudo pituitary), & president of Central FL. Little People of America, I wonder if Mike Royko's obsession with dwarf tossing would go so far as to say that 'a little bit goes a long way. Taking this phrase seriously, members of LPA include doctors, psychologists, Lawyers, pathologists, teachers etc. Over 40% of our members have college degrees. In show-business, our ranks include such talented actors as Billy Bartly as well as an Academy Award nominee-the former Michael Dunne in SHIP OF FOOLS. Mr. Royko mentions the English dwarf - Lenny the Giant (?) - as saying 'being tossed wasn't nearly as degrading as working on an assembly line'. Ask yourself two questions, Lenny. Do your fellow assembly line workers feel degraded? have you compared the salary & tenure of work between assembling and being tossed about? We dwarfs in LPA - instead of being tossed across - would rather 'keep looking up'. Instead of being ridiculed, we would prefer to 'THINK BIG'. (I've omitted proper paragraphing to conserve space. However, I think that's how most of us in LPA feel about the matter and we should make our concerns known.) To those going to the regional in Savannah, have a good trip and enjoyable weekend. See you at Mivilles in November.

"dedicated to helping people of short stature"

the size of the person being tossed.

And Chicago's dwarf-tossing competition is not going to add anything to the legitimacy of the sport.

"Actually, you won't have to use a dwarf in our contest," said Chris Creswell, the owner of O'Sullivan's Public House. "You can use anybody you want. Of course, if you choose to use a regular-sized person, your chances of winning won't be very good."

The catch to the Chicago rules is that each dwarf thrower will be expected to provide his own dwarf (or other small person) to be tossed. That might make the results questionable because the Australians used one dwarf, as did the English.

And it might also make it difficult to enter. Unless you happen to know a dwarf who enjoys being tossed, it would probably be difficult to find one.

My guess is that the contest will never take place, even if people find consenting dwarfs.

That's because many people — dwarfs and regular-sized — are offended by it and have protested in Australia and England. They say it is insensitive to throw another person that way.

Actually, the Australian and English dwarfs didn't mind. The Australian said it beat his regular job of acting in children shows. He said he preferred flying across a barroom to performing before a horde of runny-nosed kids. And the tiny Englishman, who is known as Lenny the Giant, said being tossed wasn't nearly as degrading as working on an assembly line.

All the same, lawmakers in both countries have threatened to outlaw the tossing of dwarfs. Lawmakers here, too, would probably intercept this sport long before the first dwarf is lobbed.

Joe White, Pres.

Central FL. MiniGators





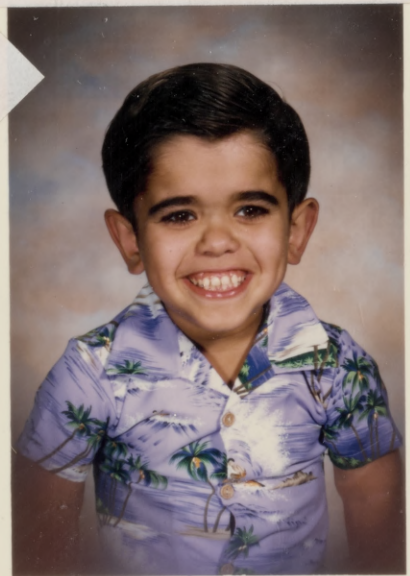
Osteo Genesis Group  
Sandy Gatewood, Shirley  
Stan Freitas, Debbie  
Morris



Larrie and Jamie  
Ramos



+ Danielle & Jennifer  
Post



Chuck, Jack, and  
Sally Bedow





Wendy Picard

1985



Happy Holidays from  
Chapter 13 Joe White Press







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WILSON